

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-04

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USINT CAIRO

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 091205

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO AMMAN, JERUSALEM, LONDON,
MOSCOW, PARIS, TEL AVIV, USUN, DIA, CINCEUR FROM BEIRUT
MAY 11 REPEATED YOU:

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 5379

DEPT ALSO PASS CAIRO

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR XF IS

SUBJECT: DAYAN STATEMENT ON SITUATION IN LEBANON

1. DAYAN STATEMENT REPORTED FBIS M091953 AND TELAVIV 3673
IS EXACTLY SORT OF UNHELPFUL PUBLIC DECLARATION WE REFERRED TO IN
OUR 51 54 (NOTAL). IT HAS BEEN HEARD AND NOTED WITH CONCERN
BY PRESIDENCY HERE, PICKED UP BY LOCAL PRESS (DESPITE CENSOR-
SHIP AND SHORTAGES OF NEWSPRINT), AND HAS MADE PREDICTABLE
IMPACT ON FEDAYEEN AND THEIR SYMPATHIZERS AMONG LOCAL
POPULATION.

2. REACTION FROM PRESIDENCY WAS ONE OF DISMAY WITH RESPECT
TO DAYANS STATEMENT THAT " ISRAEL WOULD CONTINUE TO EXERT
PRESSURE ON LEBANON" SINCE PRESENT FIGHT ONLY TO STOP VIOLA-
TIONS LEBANESE SOVEREIGNTY AND NOT FIGHT AGAINST " TERRORISTS"
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(SEEN AS EUPHEMISM FOR ALL FEDAYEEN OR PERHAPS PALESTINIANS GENERALLY). DAYANS IMPLICIT GREEN LIGHT TO SYRIANS TO CONTINUE INDIRECT, YET SIGNIFICANT, ARMED INTERFERENCE IN OPPOSITION TO GOL ALSO NOTED WITH SOME CONCERN NOT RPT NOT BECAUSE GOL WISHES ISRAEL TO PUBLICLY PROCLAIM ITSELF AS " INTER- ARAB POLICE" BUT BECAUSE THEY FEAR IT MAY REPRESENT REAL POSITION OF GOI AT TIME WHEN GOL NEEDED ALL SUPPORT IT COULD GET IN TRYING TO END INFILTRATION OF ARMS AND MEN FROM SYRIA AS WELL AS SYRIAN AGITATION AMONG LEBANESE SUNNI MOSLEMS AND FEDAYEEN GOL HAD BEEN HOPING THAT GOI, IN PRIVATE AND NOT PUBLIC, WOULD TRY AND DETER EVEN SYRIAN INDIRECT INTERVENTION.

3. POPULAR REACTION UNFAVORABLE ON BOTH PRO- AND ANTI- GOL SIDES. FEDAYEEN AND THEIR SUPPORTERS NATURALLY POINT TO SPEECH AS FURTHER REASON WHY THEY MUST NOT ALLOW THEMSELVES BE DISARMED, IE, THEY MUST RETAIN THEIR OWN ARMED FORCE TO DEFEND THEMSELVES AGAINST MORE ISRAELI ATTACKS SUCH AS NAHR EL BARED AND BEIRUT. PRO- GOL OPINION SEES IT AS ANOTHER TIGHTENING OF SCREW BY ISRAEL ON LEBANON IN EFFORT PROVOKE FULL SCALE FIGHT AND POSSIBLE CIVIL WAR.

4. COMMENT: AT TIME WHEN GOL TRYING TO CALM POPULAR PASSIONS, AND WORK TO ESTABLISH TIGHTER CONTROLS ON FEDAYEEN (EVEN IF THESE MAY NOT BE ALL THAT ISRAEL MIGHT DESIRE) WE CONTINUE THINK IT WOULD BE IN INTERESTS OF USG FOR GOI TO MAKE EFFORT DISCREETLY SUPPORT GOL RATHER THAN MAKING SITUATION MORE DIFFICULT. HOWEVER WE RECOGNIZE THAT GOI OUTLOOK IS QUITE DIFFERENT AND DAYANS STATEMENT PROBABLY ACCURATE REFLECTION OF GOI OUTLOOK.
HOUGHTON

UNQUOTE RUSH

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